

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 03663 161617Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 AGRE-00 /061 W

-----170313Z 021071 /75

R 161415Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3663

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT GH

SUBJ: UNIVERSITIES CLOSED IN GHANA

REF: ACCRA 2340

1. STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HELD DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MAY 13 VISIT LED TO CLASHES WITH POLICE AND RESULTED IN GOG DECISION TO CLOSEDOWN THE THREE UNIVERSITIES IN COUNTRY: UNIVERSITIES OF GHANA (LEGON), CAPE COAST, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF KUMASI. IN ITS ORDER CLOSING UNIVERSITIES, SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) ALSO ORDERED ALL STUDENTS REDEPLOYED TO FARMS. A STATEMENT FROM THE CASTLE (SEAT OF GOVERNMENT) SAID INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED TO STUDENTS TO GATHER AT PREDESCRIBED LOCATIONS FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT, BUT AS OF MAY 16 NO INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN PROMULGATED.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PROTESTING HIGH FOOD PRICES, ACHEAMPONG'S LEADERSHIP AND PROPOSED UNION GOVERNMENT TO MAKE POINT TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT ALL IS NOT WELL IN GHANA. STUDENTS WERE WELL-ORGANIZED AND TOOK TO STREETS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ACCRA, CAPE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 03663 161617Z

COAST AND KUMASI BUT WERE QUICKLY SCATTERED BY POLICE. SOME DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPORTEDLY HURT AND WE HAVE HEARD ONE WAS KILLED IN KUMASI, BUT CANNOT CONFIRM THIS. ONE US AND THREE BRITISH PROFESSORS IN CAPE COAST WERE HELD FOR QUESTIONING BUT RELEASED A FEW HOURS LATER.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT-OWNED PRESS SUPPORTED CLOSURE OF UNIVER-

SITIES AND PLANS TO SEND STUDENTS TO FARMS. DAILY GRAPHIC CON-
CLUDED THAT "BY OPTING TO GO ON THE STREETS TO DEMONSTRATE
AGAINST RISING COST OF FOOD, INSTEAD OF DOING SOMETHING POSITIVE
ABOUT THE SITUATION, THE STUDENTS HAVE OPENLY INVITED THE GOVERN-
MENT TO FORCE THEM TO HELP INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION." GHANIAN
TIMES APPLAUDED GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO "SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE
CHILD"

AND COMPLAINED OF STUDENTS THAT THEIR "LEADERSHIP HAS
GONE HAYWIRE, THEIR JUDGEMENT GONE RUSTIC EVEN BEFORE THEY ARE
OLD ENOUGH TO FACE THE RIGORS OF LIFE."

4. COMMENT: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HERE ARE THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS
OF THE ELITE. NEITHER THEY NOR THEIR PARENTS CAN BE PLEASED
BY BROKEN HEADS OR BY THE PROSPECT THAT A WHOLE ACADEMIC YEAR
WILL BE LOST UNLESS UNIVERSITIES REOPEN IN THE VERY NEAR
FUTURE SO EXAMINATIONS CAN BE HELD ON SCHEDULE LATER THIS
MONTH. SMC'S DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AND THREAT TO SEND
STUDENTS BACK TO THE LAND WILL FURTHER ERODE ITS ALREADY
MARGINAL POPULARITY AND MAY LEAD TO OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS.
IT IS POSSIBLE SMC MAY TRY TO IMPRESS STUDENTS INTO GHANA
NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION CORPS (REFTEL); IF SO, IT WILL BE
FLIRTING WITH DISASTER. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, UNIVERSITIES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA03663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0244
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabvdh.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ACCRA 2340
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2512330
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIVERSITIES CLOSED IN GHANA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SEDU, GH, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009